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REFRESHMENTS.
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Giles W. Lewis, Esq.,
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Wines, Ac., also, Groceries, Furniture, Ac.
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The Age.

Freedom of Inquiry and the Power of the People.

VOLUME V.

WOODSTOCK, THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 19, 1844.

NUMBER 227.

THE AGE.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1844.

Keep it before the People!

VERMONT COONS AND HENRY CLAY ON SLAVERY—REMARKABLE SIMILARITY OF OPINIONS!

"Now, as in 1810, we contend for the ABOLITION of the OPIUM institution of domestic SLAVERY by any and every Constitutional means."

"Mr. President, it is not true, and I REJOICE that it is not true, that either of the two great political parties in this country has any design or aim at abolition. I should DEEPLY LAMENT if it were true."

"Two hundred years of legislation have sanctioned and sanctified negro slaves as property."—Henry Clay.

Resolved, That we regard the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia and Territory of Florida, as within the province and constitutional power of Congress, and that we engage upon that body the propriety of its speedy abolition in the District and Territory.—Introduced and passed by the Coons of the Legislature.

"I am a son of Virginia and a slaveholder of Kentucky, and I would suffer the TORTURES OF THE INQUISITION before I would sign a bill having for its object the ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, or in ANY MANNER GIVE COUNTENANCE TO THE SUBJECT."—Henry Clay.

"My negroes are fat and sleek."—Henry Clay.

JO. SMITH TO HENRY CLAY.

The "Nauvoo Times and Seasons," a Mormon paper, contained a correspondence between Jo. Smith the Mormon Leader and Henry Clay. Not long previous, Jo. had manifested a disposition to support Clay, but having addressed to him certain queries as to the course he would take towards the Mormons should he be elected, his reply was not satisfactory to Jo, who consequently wrote a long letter in which he criticized Mr. Clay's letter, and his conduct as a statesman, very severely. It is supposed this letter was one cause of the excessive excitement recently manifested against Smith, and that his assassination was hastened in consequence. This is likely, for we know that Mr. Clay has many friends among the more lawless and reckless of community. For these reasons and at the particular request of sundry persons, we are induced to copy a portion of Smith's letter, as it appears in the "Times and Seasons" of June 1st.

State Sentinel.

"In your answer to my questions, last fall, that peculiar tact of modern politicians, declaring, 'if you ever enter into that high office, you must go into it free and unfettered, with no guaranty but such as are to be drawn from your whole life, character and conduct,' so much resembles a lottery vender's sign, with the goddess of good luck sitting on the ear of fortune, a straddle of the horn of plenty, and driving the merry steeds of beatitude, without reins or bridle, that I cannot help exclaiming: O frail man; what have you done that can exalt you? Can anything be drawn from your life, character or conduct that is worthy of being held up to the gaze of this nation as a model of virtue, charity and wisdom? Are you not a lottery picture with more than two blanks to a prize? Leave many things prior to your Ghent treaty, let the world look at that, and see where is the wisdom, honor and patriotism which ought to have characterized the plenipotentiary of the only free nation on earth! A quarter of a century's negotiation to obtain our rights on the north-eastern boundary, and the motley manner in which Oregon tries to shine as American territory, coupled with your presidential race, and come-by-hance secretaryship, in 1825, all go to convince the friends of freedom, the golden patriots of Jeffersonian democracy, free trade and sailor's rights, and the protectors of persons and property, that an honorable war is better than a dishonorable peace.

Again this is not all: rather than show yourself an honest man, by guaranteeing to the people what you will do in case you should be elected president; you can enter into no engagement, make no promises, and give no pledges as to what you will do. Well, it may be that some hot-headed partisan would take such nothing-in-guarantee upon trust, but sensible men and even ladies would think themselves insulted by such an evading of coming events! If a tempest is expected, why not prepare to meet it; and in the language of the poet exclaim:—

"Then let the trial come; and witness thou,
If terror be upon me; if I shrink
Or falter in my strength to meet the storm,
When hardest it beset me!"

True greatness never wavers, but when the Missouri compromise was entered in to by you, for the benefit of slavery, there was a mighty shrinkage of western honor; and from that day, sir, the sterling Yankee, the struggling abolitionist, and the staunch Democrat, with a large number of the liberal Whigs, have marked you as a blackleg in politics, begging for a chance to shuffle yourself into the Presidential chair, where you might deal out the destinies of our beloved country for a game of brag, that would end in, 'Black from the tomb a doleful sound.' Start not from this picture; for 'your whole life, character and conduct' have been spotted with deeds that cause a blush upon the face of a virtuous patriot, so you must be contented in your lot, while crime, cowardice, cupidity or low cunning have handed you down from the high tower of a statesman, to the black hole of a gambler. A man that accepts a challenge or fights a duel, is nothing more nor less than murderer, for holy writ declares that 'whosoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed;' and when in the renowned city of Washington, the notorious Henry Clay dropped from the summit of a Senator to the sink

of a scoundrel, to shoot at the chalk line of a Randolph, he not only disgraced his own fame, family and friends, but he polluted the sanctum sanctorum of American glory; and the kingly blackguards through out the whole world are pointing the finger of scorn at the boasted 'asylum of the oppressed,' and hissing at American statesmen, as gentlemen vagabonds and murderers, holding the olive branch of peace in one hand, and the pistol of death in the other! Well might the Savior rebuke the heads of this nation with *eo unto scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites*, of the United States government, and Congress, with a few honorable exceptions, have gone the way of Cain and must perish in their gain-sayings, like Korah and his wicked host. And honest men of every clime, and the innocent, poor, and oppressed, as well as heathens, pagans, and Indians, everywhere who could but hope that the tree of liberty would yield some precious fruit for the hungry human race, and shed some balmy leaves for the healing of nations, have given up all hopes of equal rights, of justice and judgment, and of truth and virtue when such polluted, vain, heaven-daring, bogus patriots, are forced or flung into the front rank of government, to guide the destinies of millions. Crape the heavens with weeds of woe; gird the earth with sackcloth, and let hell mutter one melody in commemoration of fallen splendor! for the glory of America has departed, and God will set a flaming sword to guard the tree of liberty, while such mint-tithings Herods as Van Buren, Bogs, Benton, Calhoun and Clay; are thrust out of the realms of virtue as fit subjects for the kingdom of fallen greatness; *vae reprobi, vae Diaboli!* In your late addresses to the people of South Carolina, where rebellion boded but could not blossom, you 'renounced ultraism,' 'high tariff,' and almost banished your 'banking system,' for the more certain standard of 'public opinion.' This is all very well, and marks the intention of a politician, the calculations of a demagogue, and the allowance for feelings of a shrewd manager, just as truly as the weathercock does the wind when it turns upon the spire. Hastings for the south, barbecues for the west, confidential letters for the north, and 'American System' for the east.

"Let all my baby upon the tree top,
And when the wind blows the cradle will rock."

Suppose you should also, taking your 'whole life, character and conduct' into consideration, and as many hands make light work, stir up the whole 'Clay party,' the N. Republican party, 'High Protective Tariff party,' and the late coon skin party, with all their paraphernalia, *ultraism, ne plus ultraism, sine qua non*, which has grown with your growth, strengthened with your shrinkage, and ask the people of this enlightened Republic, what they think of your powers and policy as a statesman? For verily it would seem, from all past remains of parties, political projects and pictures, that you are the Clay and the people the potters; and as some vessels are marred in the hands of the potters, the natural conclusion is, that you are a vessel of dishonor.

You may complain that a close examination of your 'whole life, character and conduct,' places you as a Kentuckian would pleasantly term it, 'in a bad fix,' but, sir, when the nation has sunk deeper and deeper in the mire, at every turn of the great wheels of the Union, while you have acted as one of the principal drivers, it becomes the bounden duty of the whole community, as one man, to whisper you every point of government, to uncover every act of your life, and enquire what mighty acts you have done to benefit the nation; how much you have tithed the mint to gratify your lust, and why the fragments of your raiment hung upon the thorns by the path, as signals to beware!

But your shrinkage is truly wonderful! Not only your banking system, and high tariff project, have vanished from your mind 'like the baseless fabric of a vision,' but the 'annexation of Texas' has touched your pathetic sensibilities of national pride so acutely that the poor Texans, your own brethren, may fall back into the ferocity of Mexico, or be sold at auction to British stock jobbers, and all is well, for 'I,' the old Senator from Kentucky, am fearful it would militate against my interest in the north, to enlarge the borders of the Union at the south. Truly, a poor wise child is better than an old foolish king, who will no longer be admonished! Who ever heard of a nation that had too much territory? Was it ever bad policy to make friends? Has any people ever become too good to do good? No, never, but the ambition and vanity of some men have flown away with their wisdom and judgement, and left a creaking skeleton to occupy the place of a noble soul.

Why, sir, the condition of the whole earth is lamentable. Texas dreads the teeth and toe-nails of Mexico. Oregon has the rheumatism brought on by the horrid exposure to the heat and cold of British and American trappers; Canada has caught a bad cold from extreme fatigue in the patriot war; South America has the head ache, caused by bumps against the beams of Catholicity and Spanish sovereignty; Spain has the gripes from age and iniquity; France trembles and wastes under the effects of contagious diseases; England groans with the gout, and wiggles with wine; Italy and the german states are pale with the consumption; Prussia, Poland, and the little contagious dynasties, ditches and domains, have the mumps so severely, that the 'whole head is sick and the whole heart is faint; Russia has the cramp by lineage; Turkey has the numb palsy; Africa, from the curse of God, has lost the use of her limbs; China is ruined by the Queen's evil, and the rest of Asia fear-

fully exposed to the smallpox, the natural way from British pedlars; the islands of the sea are almost dead with the scurvy; the Indians are blind and lame, the United States, which ought to be the good physician with balm from Gilead and an *asylum for the oppressed*, has boasted, and is boasting up into the council chamber of the government, a clique of political gamblers, to play for the old clothes and old shoes of a sick world, and no pledge, no promise, to any particular portion of the people, that the rightful heirs will ever receive a cent of their father's legacy! Away with self-important, self-aggrandising, and self-willed demagogues! their friendship is colder than polar ice, and their professions meaner than the damnation of hell."

ANOTHER WHIG FALSEHOOD REFUTED.

The following letter from Gen. Jackson gives the lie to a base slander that has been circulated for some time past by the Federal papers generally, throughout the country. Col. Polk, on the occasion referred to, behaved as he was bound by every obligation to the House and country to behave. The insult was offered to him while Congress was in session.—The House had resolved itself into committee and he was passing from the Speaker's chair to his private room to sign bills. As he crossed the lobby, Mr. Wise, who had planted himself there for the purpose, accosted him, for some of his official acts (in which he had been fully sustained by the House,) in insulting terms. Col. Polk treated him with silent contempt, and thus put him down more effectually than if he had shot him down or received a bowie knife in his bosom. The whigs affect to censure Col. Polk for want of spirit. What would they have said, if he, the Speaker of the House, within ten steps of the Chair, had engaged in a fight with a Congress bully, or a duel afterwards? But let Gen. Jackson be heard. They will hardly accuse him of want of spirit.

HERMITAGE, July 24, 1844.

Sir: Your letter of the 22d inst, reached me to day. You remarked that on many occasions this summer, you have heard it charged from the stumps that our talented Governor, James K. Polk, received from me some years since, a certificate as to his willingness to defend his honor; and that, on a late occasion, 'a gentleman by the name of Peyton stated that Mr. Wise had said to Col. Polk, when Speaker of the House of Representatives, you are a dam'd little petty tyrant, I mean this personally; pocket it'—and that I had endeavored to rescue the Speaker from disgrace, by giving him a certificate that his conduct was not improper or pusillanimous." And you desire to know from me whether there is any foundation in truth for such statements.

In answer there is not the slightest authority for such statements. Col. Polk never in his life applied to me for a certificate nor did I ever suppose or believe that one was required by him from me, or any one else, to sustain his personal character.

I recollect when Mr. Wise assailed him as Speaker of the House of Representatives, urging probably the expressions you have quoted, I spoke of Wise's conduct, as did every citizen who had any respect for the character of the House, in strong terms of disapprobation; and I concurred with others in the opinion that the Speaker, in treating such blackguardism with contempt pursued the course which was most consistent with the dignity of the House, and a just self respect. But the idea of my giving Col. Polk a certificate, or of his having applied for or obtained one, is entirely unwarranted, and could have been suggested by a mind capable of falsehood, and of applying the vulgar language you have quoted to the Speaker of the House for the performance of his duties.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, ANDREW JACKSON.
W. P. ROWLES, &c., &c.

ANOTHER CHANGE.

MR CLAY IN FAVOR OF THE ADMIRALTY OF TEXAS!! WHAT WILL THE WHIGS SAY TO THAT?

The following letter from Mr. Clay shows that he is ill at ease on this important subject. He finds great difficulty in maintaining his Northern and Southern aspects with sufficient distinctness, to satisfy his friends in both sections at the same time. Those who change the scenes for him, not unfrequently exhibit the wrong face, and thereby occasion infinite trouble, in the universal whig party. The whigs at the north, wishing to coax the abolitionists into the support of Mr. Clay, have raised a loud cry against the admission of Texas, on the ground of extending slavery, and Mr. Clay is represented as concurring with them in sentiment on this subject. Now what says Mr. Clay—"I have however, no hesitation in saying, that, far from having any PERSONAL OBJECTION to the annexation of Texas, I SHOULD BE GLAD TO SEE IT."

Then, again, we are told that annexation will perpetuate slavery,—and therefore you must vote for Mr. Clay; but on this point Mr. Clay says—"whether Texas be independent or incorporated in the United States, I do not believe it will PROLONG or SHORTEN the duration of that institution." What will his NORTHERN whig supporters say to this?

Mr. Clay has in this letter, with one dash of his pen demolished the very foundation on which the whole opposition to Texas has been based; and when this fact is known to the people, we shall hear no further objection to this great American measure from the whigs.

The attempt to draw a distinction between the situation of Texas at the time when Mr. Clay, as Secretary of State under Mr. Adams, attempted to purchase Texas of Mexico, and its present situation, is altogether against him. The truth is, that at the time (1825) Mr. Clay made his attempt to purchase Texas, it was uninhabited, a mere wilderness, and could not be said to be in the actual possession of Mexico, she having exercised no jurisdiction over it. Nor had Spain ever relinquished her claim in any manner to it. Yet Mr. Clay was then ready to purchase. But now the country is settled, and is in the actual possession of the Texan government, and has been for years, without molestation. Surely then if the nominal possession of Mexico, and that for only a short time could give her the right to sell, without the consent of Spain, the actual possession and sovereignty for a much longer time, should give Texas, at least an equal right to act for herself, without the consent of Mexico.

LETTER FROM MR. CLAY ON ANNEXATION.

We find the following letter from Mr. Clay in the North Alabamian of the 16th August.

ASHLAND, 27th July, 1844.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your favor informing me, that my views, as disclosed in my letter from Raleigh, on the question of the Annexation of Texas, are misconceived, if not misrepresented, in your quarter; and that it is supposed that I have changed my opinion from what it was in 1819. I endeavored to express myself in that letter as explicitly as I could, and I do not think now that it can be fairly misinterpreted.

In 1819, when I addressed the House of Representatives, the Executive had negotiated the treaty with Spain, by which Texas was ceded to that power, but Congress had not then given any sanction to the cession. I believe now, and I thought then, that the treaty making power is not competent without the concurrence of Congress, to cede away any territory belonging to the United States. But Congress by repeated acts, subsequently manifested its approbation of the treaty; and these acts rendered it as valid and obligatory upon the United States as if Congress had given its assent, prior to the conclusion of the treaty. At that period of 1819, Texas as claimed by us, was unpeopled. No hostile incursions had been made into it by the citizens of the United States. In 1825, and 1827, there were but few inhabitants of Texas, consisting of some colonists planted there under the authority of Mexico.

At neither of the three periods above mentioned had any State or section, in this Union, manifested any opposition to Texas as composing a part of it. It has been said that Mr. Adams' administration offered to negotiate with Mexico for Texas, notwithstanding the existence of a war between Spain and Mexico, and that it could not therefore have believed that the acquisition of Texas, at that time, would have involved the United States in a war with Spain. Hence it is argued that the ratification of the late treaty could not have compromised our peace.

Mr. Adams thought it desirable to obtain Texas. Two foreign powers claimed it. Mexico was in possession, and Spain was doing nothing to assert and enforce her claim. Her representative had even gone so far as to stipulate, in a convention, to acknowledge the Independence of Mexico, although that convention was not ratified by Spain.

Mr. Adams had a right to authorize the negotiation of the treaty for the acquisition of Texas with both or either of the powers claiming it. It was natural that he should begin with that power which had the possession of Texas. Spain had interposed no obstacle, she had made no declaration that she would regard the acquisition of Texas as an act of war. In point of fact, no overtone was formally made to Mexico to purchase Texas, no negotiation was opened, no treaty was concluded. If a negotiation had commenced, or if a treaty had been signed, and Spain had protested, the prudent and cautious policy which characterized Mr. Adams' administration, would undoubtedly have prompted him to quiet Spain, and accommodate the matter, previous to the annexation of Texas to the United States and without plunging them in war with Spain. How totally different are all the circumstances under which with Mr. Adams' authority, I authorized the overture to Mexico, from those which attended the recent treaty of Mr. Tyler!

So far from Mexico being silent she repeatedly and solemnly declared that she would consider annexation as war with her. Texas was no longer an uninhabited country. It had been wrested from the dominion of Mexico by citizens, many of whom were armed from the U. States.—The war between Mexico and Texas had not been terminated by any treaty of peace. Mr. Tyler not only did not consult Mexico, but he announced that assent to the annexation was altogether unnecessary; as he proceeded to conclude a treaty, embracing a large extent of Territory, and a numerous population, not comprehended in the Texas which the U. States ceded to Spain in 1819.

In the meantime, too, a powerful opposition had arisen in the United States against the annexation of Texas to them.—

Several States had declared through their Legislatures, against it, and others, if not whole sections of the Union, were believed to be adverse to it. This was the opposition to the measure, to which, in my Raleigh letter, I alluded, when I spoke of a considerable and respectable portion of the "confederacy." I did not refer to persons but to States or sections.

Under such circumstances I could not but regard the Annexation of Texas, at this time, as compromising the honor of my country, involving it in a war, in which the sympathies of all Christendom would be against us, and endangering the integrity of the Union. I thought then, and still believe, that National dishonor, foreign war, and distraction and division at home were too great sacrifices to make for the acquisition of Texas.

But, gentlemen, you are desirous of knowing by what policy I would be guided in the event of my election as chief Magistrate of the United States, in reference to the question of the annexation of Texas. I do not think it right to announce in advance what will be the course of a future administration in respect to a question with a foreign power. I have however, no hesitation in saying that, far from any personal objection to the annexation of Texas I should be glad to see it—without dishonor, without war, with the common consent of the Union, and upon just and fair terms.

I do not think that the subject of slavery ought to affect the question one way or the other. Whether Texas be independent or incorporated in the United States, I do not believe it will prolong or shorten the duration of that institution. It is destined to become extinct, at some distant day, in my opinion, by the operation of the inevitable laws of population. It would be unwise to refuse a permanent acquisition, which will exist as long as the globe remains, on account of a temporary institution.

In the contingency of my election, to which you have adverted, if the affair of acquiring Texas should become a subject of consideration, I should be governed by the state of fact and the state of public opinion existing at the time I might be called upon to act. Above all, I should be governed by the paramount duty of preserving the Union entire, and in harmony regarding it as I do as the great guaranty of every political and public blessing, under Providence, which as a free people we are permitted to enjoy.

I am, gentlemen, respectfully,
Your obt. serv't,
H. CLAY.

Messrs. T. H. PETERS and J. M. JACKSON.

"NO MODIFICATION"

This is the cry adopted by federalists in regard to the present tariff, which we have heretofore shown to be more oppressive to the poor, and more disastrous to the business of the people generally (the factory nobility and their retainers excepted), than any previous tariff in operation in the country. The one half of its iniquitous exactions from the poor man has not been told, and cannot be told in the limited columns of a newspaper. "No modification," may do very well for rich factory nabobs, who divide thirty per cent. profit, and the miserable stipendiaries who hang upon their skirts—but the hard working yeoman and laborers, who sweat under the trials and deprivations resulting from restricted means, will vote it down at the ballot box, and scout from their confidence the men who advocate it. Let the poor man look at a few items (in addition to what we have before presented him), upon which the present tariff levies enormous and extortionate tax, and compare them with the mad cry of the federal party, of no modification!

On men's fine boots, worth 7 or 8 dollars, the whig tariff imposes a duty of one dollar and twenty five cents.

Now how much does this man who wears what are denominated coarse boots, worth \$2.50 or \$3, suppose he pays as a tax under the same whig tariff? Only two dollars and fifty cents! Although the poor man's boots cost one third less than the rich man's, the whig tariff charges him twice as much.

On women's fine booties, valued at six dollars a pair, the whig tariff charges fifty cents a pair.

On woman's coarse booties, costing only \$1.50 a pair, only one quarter as much as fine booties, the same tariff charges exactly the same sum, which, in effect, makes the poor woman pay four times as much.

On men's leather gloves, embroidered with silver worth five dollars a pair, the whig tariff imposes the enormous duty of ten cents!

But what do the people suppose they pay on men's coarse leather gloves, value fifty cents? Only the same duty, although they cost only one tenth as much!

On sugar, a necessary of life, the present whig tariff imposes a duty of fifty per cent or fifty dollars on a hundred dollars' worth of sugar.

Truly, the whig tariff is laid with no other view than to enrich the rich, at the expense of the poor.

DEMOCRATIC GAINS SINCE 1840.

Democratic gain in Louisiana since 1840, 4,180
Democratic gain in N. Carolina since 1840, 9,228
Democratic gain in Kentucky since 1840, 22,000
Democratic gain in Indiana since 1840, 15,000
Democratic gain in Illinois since 1840, 14,000
Democratic gain in Alabama since 1840, 8,000
Democratic gain in Missouri since 1840, 4,000

Democratic GAIN in seven States, 76,108!
SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND
FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHT
votes GAINED to the Democracy in only seven States, in the short space of FOUR YEARS!!!!

An Omen.—A few days ago a Hickory Pole was erected at Fort Lee, on which occasion there was a strong muster of the democratic forces. Hardly had they scattered, when a proud and stately Eagle perched upon its top, and ever since returns at intervals from his high mountain eyrie to his lofty position, to have a smell of pure democratic air.—N. Y. Herald.